

SENATE BILL 2334  
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 10, relative to the board of paroles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 10, is amended by adding the following new language, to be designated as Part "3":

§41-10-301. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Board" means the board of paroles;

(2) "Offender" means a person who is under the authority of the board pursuant to release under parole supervision;

(3) "Region" means a parole region of the board; and

(4) "Volunteer" means any person who, after fulfilling appropriate policy requirements, is assigned to a volunteer job and provides a service without pay from the board except for compensation for those expenses incurred directly as the result of volunteer service as defined in this part.

§41-10-302.

(a) The board is authorized to recruit, train and appoint volunteers to programs of the board without regard to state employment regulations as administered by the department of personnel. Such volunteers shall be required to comply with all applicable board policies. The board is further authorized to provide such incidental reimbursement as is consistent with the provisions of this part and with appropriate state regulations.

(b) No court or law enforcement agency shall refuse to allow inspection of such court's or agency's files and records by any volunteer demonstrating a need to know the contents of such files and records for the performance of such volunteer's official duties.

§41-10-303. The board shall:

(1) Take such actions as are necessary and appropriate to develop meaningful opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the board's programs including the appointment of personnel as deemed necessary by the board to administer volunteer services;

(2) Develop written policy governing the recruitment, training, appointment and supervision of volunteers;

(3) Take such action as is necessary to ensure that volunteers understand their duties and responsibilities;

(4) Take such action as is necessary and appropriate to ensure a receptive climate for volunteers;

(5) Provide for the recognition of volunteers who have offered outstanding service to the board; and

(6) Recognize prior volunteer service as partial fulfillment of state employment requirements for training and experience pursuant to rules adopted by the department of personnel.

§41-10-304.

(a) Meals may be furnished without charge to volunteers if the scheduled volunteer assignment extends over an established meal period.

(b) In accordance with the state's comprehensive travel regulations, travel expenses may be reimbursed to those volunteers whose volunteer assignment requires them to use their own vehicles or be away from home.

(c) Volunteers may use state vehicles when their assignments so require, subject to the approval of the board and compliance with any regulations which may be promulgated by the board.

§41-10-305.

(a) The board shall establish a state volunteer advisory board composed of a minimum of four (4) members from each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state, to be appointed by the chairman of the board of paroles. Subsequent vacancies shall be filled by the board with the approval of the chairman. The purpose of the advisory board is to:

(1) Advise the board of paroles on matters of public interest and concern;

(2) Review and recommend programs having statewide impact involving volunteers;

(3) Oversee such projects when appropriate; and

(4) Coordinate a network of regional volunteer advisory boards on matters of statewide impact.

(b) Regional advisory boards may be established to assist the regions with the administration of their volunteer services. The purpose of the regional advisory boards is to:

(1) Assist in the development and management of volunteer services using all available resources;

(2) Advise management on matters of public interest and concern;

(3) Inform the community whenever possible of the nature and intent of the programs of the region;

(4) Enlist the support of the community; and

(5) Participate in the network of volunteer advisory boards under the leadership of the state volunteer advisory board.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.